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Insanity following Surgical Operations. C. T. DENT. *Journal of Mental Science*, April, 1889.

A surgical operation may disturb the mind by anticipation; by the pain, the relief or the shock of the actual operation; and by its after effects, the letting down of the mental tension, or the absence of a physical part that has been the center of over-subjectivity. It is to attacks of insanity which follow the operation, after a short period of normal mentality, that Dr. Dent devotes the bulk of his paper. He reports a number of cases, several from his own practice, but without attempting to trace the origin of the trouble on its psychic side. In a majority of the cases no tendency to insanity, personal or hereditary, could be found, and yet acute and chronic mania followed in some, and melancholia and dementia in others. The interval of sanity distinguishes such cases from those where the disturbances are due to the anaesthetic; and the trouble is not to be traced to a special antiseptic material, for the same was not always used. The author believes that these cases are rather overlooked than rare, and writes to encourage their observation.

Ueber die Auslösung von Schmerzempfindung durch Summation sich zeitlich folgender sensibler Erregungen. Ein Beitrag zur Physiologie des Schmerzes. NAUNYN. *Archiv f. experim. Pathol. u. Pharmakol.*, Bd. XXV, H. 3-4.

Somewhat in continuation of earlier studies on disturbances of sensibility in tabes, the author now reports experiments on a peculiar kind of hyperesthesia in certain cases, mostly of tabes, in which the summation of stimuli, individually painless, produced pain. The stimuli, 60-600 a minute, were induction shocks or touches with a needle, blunt wire, or fine hair-pencil. Successful application was generally limited to areas on the sole and top of the foot, which were inconstant as to position, and sometimes wholly disappeared. The cases fall into two groups. In one the pain entered somewhat abruptly after from 3 to 45 secs., rose to a maximum, and after a few seconds ceased, whether the stimulation ceased or not; occasionally it returned after a period equal to the first delay. The pain was generally located at the point of stimulation, but sometimes extended over one leg or even both. It was accompanied also in many cases by reflex movements of the skin. Single rather severe needle-pricks produced the same kind of pain (in both cases disproportionate to the stimulus) after a delay of 2-4 secs. In the second group the pain did not cease while the stimulation continued, reached its maximum more slowly, and the reflexes were less marked. There was here less delay in the pain produced by single stimuli than before, and sometimes none at all. In a single case of transverse disease of the cord the pain was frequently felt on the other side at the point symmetrical to that stimulated. For the details of the experiments and the variations of result with individual subjects, as also for a full clinical description of the cases, the original must be consulted. The most important general result was that the length of the delay in the entrance of the summation pain depended far more on the rapidity than on the kind or intensity of the stimuli. The same was found by Stirling and by Ward for reflexes, and other points of similarity are traced by the author. Pain of the kind in question, and perhaps all pain, he holds, depends

on summation, like the reflexes. Things that cause pain in common life are such as might well cause the nerve fibers to convey prolonged stimulation to the centers. The physiology of sensation may be conceived thus: Moderate stimuli are received by the end-organs, and the excitations are conveyed in the ordinary sensory tracts (probably the posterior columns of the cord) and do not summate. These tracts are, however, unfitted and inadequate for the excitations that result in pain (stimuli attacking the nerve-fiber itself directly or indirectly), and they are obliged to take others, probably in the gray matter of the cord, where they suffer summation and consequent delay, and cause pain. When the ordinary sensory tracts are useless from disease, moderate sensations are forced to take these other tracts, and so can also summate and cause pain, as in the cases experimented upon. If the gray matter itself were much affected, as in syringomyelia, this could not happen.

Ueber Wortneubildung bei Geisteskranken. Dr. BARTELS. 22. Vers. d. Vereins d. Irrenärzte Niedersachsens u. Westfalens. Allg. Zeitschr. f. Psychiatrie, Bd. XLV, H. 5-6.

An interesting detail in some cases of insanity, especially of long-standing paranoia, is the coining of new words. Besides simple misapplication of real words, there are some that are evidently made from words of similar sound, and still others to whose meaning there is no clue. There may be difficulty in finding out the signification of these from the patient, because he is offended at being asked to explain what he is sure are common and proper designations, or because of his suspiciousness. Four cases are given by Bartels, and in three there is abundant illustration of the new words used. One case did not know what some of the strange words meant, had perhaps heard them some time; another said they were revealed to her; a male patient, that they were given or brought to him, or arose through telephonic connections. From these explanations the author concludes that they originated in auditory hallucinations.

Hallucinations, and the Subjective Sensations of the Sane. D. HACK TUKE, M.D. Brain, Jan., 1889.

What is the seat of hallucinations? Is it peripheral, as Brewster thought? or central, as Esquirol believed? or is it the optic thalamus, as Ritti would have it? The author shows that none of these theories fits all the cases; there are hallucinations of peripheral origin, and as certainly of central origin, and, as against Ritti, of cortical origin. He discusses those of sight, and gives a number of interesting cases of his own observation, some sane and some insane, whose hallucinations he has been able to study more or less carefully. From a collation of these he arrives at some general means of distinguishing their seat, in substance as follows. Pressing the eye-ball to one side doubles only such things as are external to the eye, and so distinguishes real objects from hallucinations. Déspine, on the contrary, reports an insane patient with an hallucination of the Virgin that could be doubled. This the author does not try to explain, but leaves it as a counter case to those of his own observation. One of his cases, as one of Ball's and the subjects of hypnotic hallucinations secured by Binet and Fétré, he regards as a case of illusion; and illusions, having a kernel of reality, behave like real